



STINGER SPORTS

May 20, 1987

Norman, Sullivan and Assalian gain top honors

Two graduating male athletes and a rookie performer from the women's program took top honors Wednesday May 20, as the Department of Fitness, Recreation & Athletics announced its major award winners for the 1986-87 varsity season.

Basketball star Craig Norman and wrestler Mike Sullivan were selected co-winners of the Gill Award, presented annually to the outstanding male athlete of the year. Carol Assalian capped off a brilliant season on the basketball court by being named the recipient of the Sally Kemp Award as the outstanding female athlete of the year.

Pierre Richard Thomas, a midfielder/forward for the soccer Stingers, was selected male freshman athlete of the year while hockey sensation Therese Brisson got the nod as top rookie on the women's side.

The Denise Beaudet Award, presented to a graduating female athlete who over the course of her career has shown outstanding team leadership and dedication to the program, went to Dominique Fortier of the women's soccer team. The award is named in the memory of Denise Beaudet, a former member of the women's hockey team who lost her life in a tragic car accident last year.

The Media Award, presented jointly by Concordia and McGill University, was given to CBC Television reporter Derek Fitzgerald whose coverage of events at both schools greatly enhanced the image of their respective programs.

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PROFILE

Craig Norman: co-male athlete of the year

The six-foot-five 205 pound Norman concluded a five year career on the court for Concordia in his usual brilliant style scoring 591 points and gaining both provincial and national recognition. He was named a second team Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) All-Canadian and selected to the Quebec University Athletic Association (QUAA) all-star squad for his fourth time.

Norman came to the Stingers via Dawson College. After obtaining his Bachelor of Arts Degree in three years it looked like his varsity hoop days were over. However, he was able to prolong his career for an additional two years by going for a Masters Degree in Education.

Recognized by head coach Doug Daigneault as probably "the best player to ever put on a Stinger uniform" Norman is hoping to play in Europe next year.

The departure of Norman and Rob Latter, another five year vet, provides coach Daigneault with quite a challenge for next season. It was these two players in particular who helped the club win the QUAA title this year and gain a berth in the CIAU Nationals in Halifax.

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PROFILE

Mike Sullivan: co-male athlete of the year

Concordia University captured an unprecedented fourth consecutive Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) National Wrestling Championship in 1987 and one of the key figures in that drive was 24 year old Mike Sullivan.

Sullivan, along with his twin brother Pat and three other Concordia matsmen won gold medals at the event, which was held before jam packed audiences at the Loyola Campus gymnasium.

For Mike Sullivan, who graduates this year in Exercise Science, it was a fitting way to conclude his varsity career. Competing in the 61 kg class he was outstanding and a definite crowd favorite.

Mike intends to remain close to the Concordia wrestling team and help head coach Victor Zilberman groom future grapplers.

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PROFILE

Carol Assalian: female athlete of the year

Women's varsity basketball at Concordia took a giant step in the right direction during the 1986-87 season. Although the Stingers failed to win a game in conference play they did register six victories in non-conference action which was an achievement in itself considering the fact the club finished up the previous season with a record of no wins and 27 losses.

Front and center on the court was multi-talented guard Carol Assalian, selected Quebec University Athletic Association (QUAA) women's basketball rookie of the year. In the team's 23 games she collected 255 points.

The former All-Canadian recruited out of Dawson College was a magician on the court, sinking 67 of 98 free throw attempts and garnering 80 rebounds. She averaged 35 minutes of playing time and joined four other players on the conference first-team all-stars.

After the season Assalian and teammate Carole McIntyre were asked to join the Quebec entry at the Canada Winter Games in Cape Breton. They accepted the invitation and were vital cogs in the team's gold medal victory.

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Pierre Richard Thomas: freshman male athlete of the year

One of the rising stars on the Quebec University Athletic Association (QUAA) men's soccer scene Laval native Pierre Richard Thomas is a name to remember.

Thomas was one of the positive aspects of the 1986 season which head coach Andy Onorato prefers to look back on. After going all the way to the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) final the previous year the Stingers were mired in controversy this past year when four victories were taken away from them because of what the league deemed to be an illegal player.

Concordia finished the season with a 5-5 record officially. But in their hearts they knew it was 9-1. Thomas, who came over from CEGEP Montmorency in Laval, was used at both forward and midfield. He worked his way into the regular lineup and scored some key goals.

With star performers such as Rob Donaldson and Johnny Calderone graduating Onorato will be looking towards Thomas for leadership next season.

Thomas is part of the Canadian Olympic Program and has played in the semi-professional Quebec National Soccer League.



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PROFILE

Therese Brisson: female rookie athlete of the year

When a rookie performer manages to score 57 goals and add 56 assists for 113 points, in only 36 games played, that is an accomplishment to take notice of. But Therese Brisson's feat is even more amazing when you consider the fact she plays defence.

The Dollard des Ormeaux resident turned down a scholarship offer from Cornell University to attend Concordia and are Stinger coaches Les Lawton and Julie Healy happy she did. Brisson led the Quebec Women's Intercollegiate Women's Hockey League (QIWHL) in scoring with 20 goals and 28 assists for 48 points as her team won all 16 conference games to take the league and playoff titles.

At the Theresa Humes Invitational Tournament hosted by Concordia in February, Brisson was named Most Valuable Player as the Stingers finished third in the eight team event. She gained top honors once again at season's end when Concordia won the University of New Brunswick Tournament.

Brisson, a first year Exercise Science student, also played ringette this year for her hometown Dollard Debs. As a matter of fact ringette was all she played for two years leading up to her arrival on the Concordia scene. Her last experience in hockey was at the high school level in Pierrefonds.



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PROFILE

Dominique Fortier: Denise Beaudet Award winner

Tragedy struck the athletics program at Concordia University in the winter of 1985 when women's hockey player Denise Beaudet was tragically killed in a car accident. Today, an award carries her name and is given to the graduating female athlete who over the course of her career shows outstanding team leadership and dedication to the program.

Women's soccer player Dominique Fortier of Dollard des Ormeaux was selected as this year's winner. Like Denise Beaudet, she was an inspiration to her teammates and made a solid contribution to the program in general.

Fortier is graduating from the Sports Administration Diploma program. This year she did an internship in the Department of Fitness, Recreation & Athletics, concentrating on the promotion of women's programs.

In addition to playing for the soccer team, she took part in various intramural programs and served as scorekeeper-in-chief for the varsity women's hockey team.



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ATHLETES HONORED AT TEAM AWARDS BANQUET

Athletes from Concordia University's nine varsity teams were honored at the 1986-87 Department of Fitness, Recreation & Athletics Awards banquet, held recently at Bill Wong's Restaurant.

The Quebec University Athletic Association (OUAA) men's basketball champion Stingers named five year veteran guard Craig Norman Most Valuable Player. Hugh Wallace and Keith Alexander were selected the team's most improved players; Rob Latter, who bounced back from back surgery in December and returned to the lineup two months later,, was voted most inspirational; Parnell Joseph's failure to miss a game for the second season in a row won him the iron man award while outstanding rookie Nick Arvanitis took the coach's award.

On the women's side of the basketball court it was Carol Assalian making a fast break with the MVP and top rookie honors; Sue English was selected most inspirational and Carmen Kasrelevitz was the team's choice as most improved.

Therese Brisson, who surpassed the 100 point plateau playing defence, was MVP and rookie of the year for the Quebec champion women's hockey squad. France Saborin got the nod as most inspirational while Sue Prosser was selected most improved.

The MVP for the men's hockey team was captain Giles Lascelle, a steady defenceman who may complete his eligibility with a fifth season next year. Hardnosed forward Frankie Morris, whose career as a Stinger is now over, was voted most inspirational; top rookie honors went to forward Mark Mahon and Alan Rekunyk, who completed regular season play with a hat trick against eventual National Champion Trois-Rivieres, was selected most improved.

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(Awards banquet cont'd)...

The men's soccer team bid adieu to two of its graduating players with awards: Rob Donaldson was selected MVP and Johnny Calderone most inspirational. Sante Pirro received most improved honors and Pierre Richard Thomas was the rookie-of-the-year.

Donna Jarka was MVP for the women's soccer squad with Debra Forester being named top rookie; Leanne Murray most improved and Irene Streimikis most inspirational.

The ski team, which includes both male and female athletes, selected Renata Scheib as its MVS (Most Valuable Skier). Stephane Rivard was top rookie; Catherine Daoust most inspirational and Cameron Haines most improved.

Football award winners were: Mirco Buth, top offensive player; Martin Ferdais, top defensive player; Stephane Chapados, top rookie; CFL bound Rocco Romano, top offensive lineman and Joe D'Elia, coach's award.

The four time national champion wrestling team chose to honor its five gold medal winners: Pat and Mike Sullivan, Clark Davis, Serge Marcil and Graham Dadswell.